

Message Text

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41

ACTION AF-06

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R 151145Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1832

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STADIS////////////////////////////////

FOR AF/W

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SGEN GV

SUBJECT: PROPOSED HANDICAPPED REHABILITATION PROJECT-GUINEA

REF: (A) 1975 STATE 234481, (B) 1975 CONAKRY 1655

1. GOG DIPLOMATIC NOTE OF 12 APRIL INFORMS EMBASSY THAT QUOTE WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THE US AND GUINEA FOR ACCOMPLISHMENT OF CERTAIN GUINEAN SOCIAL PROJECTS IN BEHALF OF THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED, THE ARRIVAL OF A TEAM OF AMERICAN EXPERTS ON THE BLIND AND DEAF HAS BEEN CONFIRMED BY WASHINGTON FOR THE SECOND HALF OF MAY. UNQUOTE.

2. NOTE ENCLOSES TEXT OF TELEX DATED 4 FEBRUARY FROM GUINEAN EMBASSY WASHINGTON. THIS TELEX CITED DEERING OF THE INTERNATIONAL EYE FOUNDATION AS SAYING THAT DUE TO INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON EYE PROBLEMS IN APRIL AND NEED TO ASSEMBLE A DELEGATION OF TOP PROFESSIONALS TO STUDY REHABILITATION OF BLIND, DEAF AND DUMB IN GUINEA, THE DELEGATION PLANNED FOR EARLY 1976 WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO ARRIVE CONAKRY UNTIL MAY. TELEX SAID LETTER (WHICH THIS EMBASSY HAS NOT SEEN) WOULD FOLLOW.

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3. DURING WASHINGTON CONSULTATIONS AMBASSADOR (ALONG

WITH DALTON KILLION AND LOUISE HILLSON) MET WITH IEF OFFICERS DEERING AND CODY, WHO SAID NO HARD CURRENCY FINANCING APPEARED AVAILABLE FOR A PROJECT IN GUINEA. THEY DID NOT WANT TO USE THEIR LIMITED FUNDS FROM AID FOR A MISSION WHICH COULD NOT LEAD TO ANY PROGRAM IN GUINEA AND WHICH WOULD RAISE FALSE EXPECTATIONS ON GUINEAN SIDE. THEY SAID THAT UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES IEF WAS NO LONGER PLANNING A MISSION. AMBASSADOR HAD SUBSEQUENT INCONCLUSIVE CONVERSATION WITH DR. MCCAVITT OF HEW, AN EXTRAORDINARILY VAGUE MAN WHO SEEMS UNABLE TO ACCEPT THE FACT THAT LITTLE CAN BE PURCHASED WITH SYLI COUNTERPART FUNDS. MCCAVITT DID ACKNOWLEDGE THAT HEW HAS SOME SMALL DOLLAR RESOURCES APPLICABLE TO SUCH PROGRAMS, AND HE REMAINS INTERESTED IN AN ASSISTANCE PROJECT FOR GUINEA.

4. PROPOSAL OF US ASSISTANCE IN REHABILITATION STEMS FROM 1972 HEW VISIT TO GUINEA AND WAS FURTHER PURSUED BETWEEN LEADER GRANTEES CONDE AND CURTIS AND HEW/IEF LAST YEAR. IT THEN SEEMED AND STILL SEEMS A VALID FOLLOW-ON OF A SUCCESSFUL LEADER VISIT, A POSSIBLE SMALL US AID PROGRAM IN A HUMANITARIAN, NON-POLITICAL SECTION.

5. EMBASSY REQUESTS THAT DEPARTMENT AND AID MAKE ONE MORE EFFORT TO PUT THIS PROJECT TOGETHER THROUGH SOME COMBINATION OF AID, IEF (OR OTHER PRIVATE AGENCY) AND HEW FUNDING. EMBASSY AGREES WITH DEERING AND CODY THAT AN EXPERT MISSION TO GUINEA, WHICH COULD REAP EXCELLENT GOOD WILL, WOULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE UNLESS RESOURCES WERE AVAILABLE FOR AT LEAST A MODEST RESULTING PROJECT. COUNTERPART COULD BE USED FOR LOCAL EMPLOYMENT AND PERHAPS SOME OTHER LIMITED LOCAL EXPENSES, BUT NOT REPEAT NOT FOR ANY EQUIPMENT PROCUREMENT, SUPPLIES, NOR INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL. THIS CONVERTIBLE FUNDS ARE SINE QUA NON, AT LEAST ENOUGH TO FINANCE EXPERT SALARY AND TRAVEL AND SOME SMALL AMOUNT OF EQUIPMENT.

6. AFTER ONE MORE EFFORT, DEPARTMENT AND AID SHOULD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DISCUSS MATTER FULLY AND FRANKLY WITH GUINEAN EMBASSY. IF PROPOSAL CANNOT GO AHEAD WE MUST CLEAR UP PRESENT MISUNDERSTANDING AND TRY TO LIMIT THE CERTAIN NEGATIVE IMPACT OF WHAT MRS. CURTIS AND HER INFLUENTIAL FRIENDS WILL PROBABLY SEE AS A POLITICALLY MOTIVATED REVERSAL OF POSITION.
HARROP

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